Impact of drought

3724. SHRI J. P. GOYAL: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a study by thy Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) has stated that the unprecedented drought in various parts of the country this year would have wide ranging impact on agricultural income rural demand for agricultural and industrial goods and that 25 per cent of small farmers and two thirds of landless labourers would go below the poverty line;

(b) whether it is a fact that the Central assistance provided, so far was not adequate and whatever assistance has been provided has not reached the affected persons; and

(c) what urgent remedial measures are being taken to meet the problems arising out of the recent drought and whether any guidelines have been issued to the States in this regard, and if so, what are the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA): fa) A recent paper by Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry has stated that the drought will have adverse effect on agricultural income and rural demands for agricultural and industrial. goods. It has also stated that unless urgent re-medial steps are taken, it is feared that 25 per cent of the country's small farmers and two-thirds of landless labourers could go below the poverty line.

(b) and (c) Adequate Central assistance for drought relief is provided to the States as per estblished procedure. As per the procedure in the event of natu'ral calamities including drought, when a State Government is unable to meet the expenditure on relief from the margin money allocated to them, it submits a memorandum seeking Central assistance. On receipt of the memorandum, an Inter Ministerial Central Team is constituted to visit the State. The overall Central assistance to be Provided to the States is sanctioned based on the recommendations of the High Level Cornmittee on Relief, keeping in view the States' requirements report of the Central team on the basis of their on-the-spot assessment of the situation and funds available under various Plan and Non-Plan Schemes under State and Central Sector. Central assistance is approved for various items in the event of drought, including employment generation, agriculture inputs subsidy, drinking water Pro grammes. special nutrition programmes cattle care and fodder suppiy etc.

Besides financial assistance, various other special measures have been taken to meet the situation effective ly. These include;

(i) augmentation iof drinking water supply in drought affected rural and urban areas.

(ii) Provision of fodder and transportation of fodder to areas where fodder shortages are felt.

fiii) Supply of seeds and provision of subsidy for agricultural inputs to small and marginal farmers.

(iv) Special schemes for increasing vegetable supply and fodder cultivation.

(v) priority supply of power to agricultural sector.

(vi) Optimum use of water resources for drinking and irrigation purposes.

(vii) Provision of supplementary nutrition in drought affected areas to young children and expectant mothers.

(viii) acceleration of State irrigation projects to provide drought proofing.

(ix) allocation of foodgrains to States for distribution to persons employed on relief works, as a part of wages.

Manufacture of various brands of edible oils

3725. SHRI J. P. GOYAL: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state;

(a) whether Government are aware of the large number of brands of edible oils available in Delhi;

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard;

(c) whether due to high prlees of edible oils and short supply of imported edible oils, various firms/individuals have resorted to manufacturing of edible oils in various brand names;

(d) whether Government are satisfied with their usefulness and have ensured that they do not have any harmful effects; if so what are the details in this regard; and

(e) whether Government propose to make the people aware about the usefulness or otherwise of various edible oils under various brand names, including imported edible oils and if so what are the details in this reard and if not. what, are the reasons sons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI H K. L. BHAGAT): Ca) to (e) Edible Oils are sold under Various brand names by different manufacturers. These oils are sold in raw form, refined form or after hy-drogenation in the form of Vanaspati. Different brands of oils cater to the varying requirements of the consume.

(d) and (e) The producers of edible oils including imported oil are required to conform to the provisions of Prevention of Food Adulteration Act, which ensures that the product is safe for consumption. Usage of different edible oils depends on consumer preference.

NDDB's agreement with, foreign firms on vegetable and fruifl projects

3726. SHRI RAM AWADHESH SINGH; Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether if is a fact that the National Dairy Development Board (NDDB) has entered into an agree ment with some foreign firms for ve getable and fruit projection of the Go vernment of India;

(b) whether technical jknowt-how in this regard is easily available in India; and

(c) whether the contracts have been given by the NDDB on the basis of single quotation of their choice as had been done by the NDDB/IDC for Tetrapak Project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERTION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The conventional concrete technology available in India was found to take a long time of 3-4 years for completion of the job, as against 15 months with modem technology which is cost effective under Indian conditions and which uses pre-fabricated steel construction and insulated panels.

(c) No, Sir. NDDB had floated a global tender for supply, erection and commissioning of the production block of the Central Distribution Facility on a turnkey basis. The advertisement was also inserted in the Indian Export Bulletin. Quotations